

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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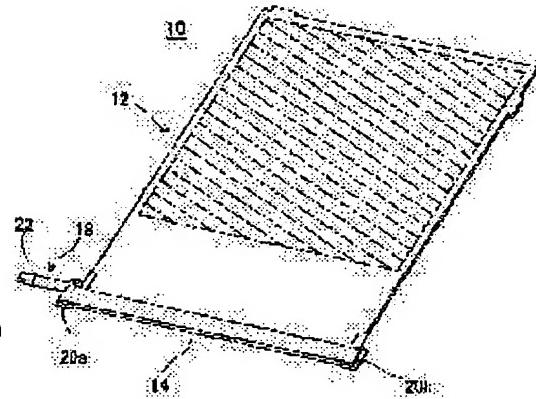
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## (54) SURFACE ILLUMINATING APPARATUS

### (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a surface illuminating apparatus which can reduce the amount of light leakage from the gap between a light emitting face of an LED and a side face of a stick-type light guide body.

**SOLUTION:** Light emitted from a light-emitting face of an LED 20a fixed to a substrate 18 enters the stick-type light guide body 16 via a side face on the LED 20a side and is emitted from a side face on a light guide plate 12 side. The emitted light enters the light guide plate 12 via a side face and is emitted from an upper face. The substrate 18 has a through hole 18e and the stick-type light guide body 16 has a protrusion 16g on a bottom face. By inserting the protrusion 16g into the through hole 18e, the relative position of LED 20a and the stick-type light guide body 16 is determined and a close contact between the light-emitting face of the LED 20a and the side face of the stick-type light guide body 16 can be achieved.



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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The cylindrical transparent material which carries out incidence of the discharge light from the luminescence side of the point light source which fixes to a substrate, and said point light source from the die-length direction end face, and carries out outgoing radiation from the die-length direction side face, And it sets to area-light equipment equipped with the light guide plate which carries out incidence of the outgoing radiation light from said cylindrical transparent material from the 1st side face, and carries out outgoing radiation from a top face. Area-light equipment which forms a fitting crevice in the predetermined location of said substrate, forms fitting heights in the predetermined location of said cylindrical transparent material, and is characterized by positioning relatively said point light source and said cylindrical transparent material by inserting said fitting heights in said fitting crevice.

[Claim 2] It is area-light equipment according to claim 1 with which said cylindrical transparent material is arranged almost in parallel with said 1st side face of said light guide plate, said light guide plate has said 1st side face and the 2nd side face which intersects perpendicularly near [ said ] the point light source, and said luminescence side of said point light source is located in the method of outside [ side face / said / 2nd ].

[Claim 3] a line parallel to the straight line which said light guide plate has said 1st side face and the 2nd side face which intersects perpendicularly near [ said ] the point light source, and intersects said 1st side face and said 2nd side face -- the area-light equipment according to claim 1 or 2 in which prism was formed on the top face of said light guide plate.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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### [Detailed Description of the Invention]

#### [0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the area-light equipment of the front light method which irradiates light at a reflective mold liquid crystal display panel especially about area-light equipment, for example.

#### [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] An example of this conventional kind of area-light equipment is indicated by JP,2000-89225,A [G02F1 / 1335] by which application public presentation was carried out as of March 31, Heisei 12. This conventional technique is giving a predetermined include angle between the die-length directions of linear prism and the perpendicular directions of the pixel pattern of a reflective mold liquid crystal display component which were formed in the top face of a light guide plate, and tends to prevent generating of the Moire fringe by interference with prism and the pixel pattern of a reflective mold liquid crystal display component.

[0003] Moreover, an example of another area-light equipment is indicated by JP,2000-11723,A [F21V8 / 00] by which application public presentation was carried out as of January 14, Heisei 12. Although this conventional technique is not a front light method, it is using the point light source and a cylindrical transparent material instead of the fluorescent lamp currently used as a linear light source, and enables improvement and a low-battery drive of impact nature.

[0004] If such two area-light equipments are combined, it will excel in shock resistance and an electrical-potential-difference drive property, and the area-light equipment of the front light method which a moire draft does not generate will be obtained.

#### [0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, if a clearance produces the point light source and a cylindrical transparent material between the point light source and a cylindrical transparent material by the location gap when mounting in a substrate, the leakage light from this clearance will carry out direct incidence to a light guide plate, and the bright line will arise on the top face of a light guide plate. That is, the bright line appears in the direction in which leakage light goes to prism direct owing to.

[0006] So, the main purpose of this invention is offering the area-light equipment which can reduce the leakage light produced from between the point light source and cylindrical transparent materials.

#### [0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The cylindrical transparent material which this invention carries out incidence of the discharge light from the luminescence side of the point light source and the point light source which fixes to a substrate from the die-length direction end face, and carries out outgoing radiation from the die-length direction side face, And it sets to area-light equipment equipped with the light guide plate which carries out incidence of the outgoing radiation light from a cylindrical transparent material from the 1st side face, and carries out outgoing radiation from a top face. It is area-light equipment which forms a fitting crevice in the predetermined location of a substrate, forms fitting heights in the predetermined location of a cylindrical transparent material, and is characterized by positioning the point

light source and a cylindrical transparent material relatively by inserting fitting heights in a fitting crevice.

[0008]

[Function] A cylindrical transparent material carries out incidence of the discharge light from the luminescence side of the point light source which fixed to the substrate from the die-length direction end face, and it carries out outgoing radiation from the die-length direction side face. Incidence of the outgoing radiation light from a cylindrical transparent material is carried out from the 1st side face of a light guide plate, and outgoing radiation is carried out from the top face of a light guide plate. Here, a fitting crevice is formed in the predetermined location of a substrate, and fitting heights are formed in the predetermined location of a cylindrical transparent material. The point light source and a cylindrical transparent material are relatively positioned by inserting fitting heights in a fitting crevice.

[0009] On an aspect of affairs with this invention, a cylindrical transparent material is arranged almost in parallel with the 1st side face of a light guide plate. Moreover, the luminescence side of the point light source is located in the method of outside [ side face / of light guide plate which intersects perpendicularly with 1st side face / near the point light source / 2nd ].

[0010] a line parallel to the straight line which intersects the 1st side face and the 2nd side face on other aspects of affairs of this invention -- prism is formed in the top face of a light guide plate.

[0011]

[Effect of the Invention] Since the point light source and a cylindrical transparent material were relatively positioned by inserting fitting heights in a fitting crevice according to this invention, the leakage light which the luminescence side of the point light source and the die-length direction end face of a cylindrical transparent material can be made close, consequently is produced from between a luminescence side and the die-length direction end faces can be reduced.

[0012] The above-mentioned purpose of this invention, the other purposes, the description, and an advantage will become still clearer from the detailed explanation of the following examples given with reference to a drawing.

[0013]

[Example] The area-light equipment 10 of this example shown in drawing 1 is the so-called lighting system of a front light method, and consists of a substrate 18 (finishing [ mounting of LED 20a and 20b ]) shown in the reflector 14 shown in the cylindrical transparent material (stick transparent material) 16, drawing 5, and drawing 6 which are shown in the light guide plate 12 shown in drawing 2, drawing 3, and drawing 4, drawing 7, and drawing 8.

[0014] With reference to drawing 2, a light guide plate 12 is made from polycarbonate resin and acrylic resin which are transparency resin, top-face 12a and inferior-surface-of-tongue 12b are formed in the shape of a rectangle, and the cross section seen from side faces 12e or 12f is formed a wedge shape or in the shape of parallel. Each include angle which the include angle which side faces 12c and 12e make, the include angle which side faces 12c and 12f make, the include angle which side faces 12f and 12d make, and side faces 12d and 12e make is made into about 90 degrees. Chuo of top-face 12a -- a little -- side-face 12c -- being alike -- two or more lines -- 12g of prism sides which consist of prism P is formed. each line -- Prism P -- 12d of side faces -- receiving -- the direction of slant -- extending -- a line -- the die-length direction of prism is made parallel to the straight line L which intersects side faces 12e and 12d.

[0015] With reference to drawing 3 (A), drawing 3 (B) and drawing 4 (A) - drawing 4 (C), the stick transparent material 16 is also made from polycarbonate resin and acrylic resin which are transparency resin. Top-face 16a and inferior-surface-of-tongue 16b are mutually made parallel, and, in nothing and side faces 16c and 16d, side faces 16c-16f make 90 degrees for 90 degrees to side faces 16e and 16f to top-face 16a and inferior-surface-of-tongue 16b. the die length (distance from side-face 16c to 16d of side faces) of the stick transparent material 16 -- about [ the breadth of a light guide plate 12, and ] -- I do one and it may specifically be 60.1\*\*0.3mm (\*\*0.3mm is tolerance). Top-face 16a of the stick transparent material 16 is formed in a flat over the whole surface, and inferior-surface-of-tongue 16b is formed in a flat except for 16g of projections formed near the side-face 16c. 16g of projections is formed in the shape of a cylinder, and a diameter is set to 0.5mm thru/or 0.6mm. That is, tolerance of a diameter is set to -

0.1mm. Moreover, distance from side-face 16c to the core of 16g of projections is set to 1.5mm thru/or 1.6mm. That is, tolerance of this distance is also set to -0.1mm.

[0016] With reference to drawing 5 (A), drawing 5 (B) and drawing 6 (A) - drawing 6 (C), a reflector 14 is made from metals, such as stainless steel, brass, and aluminum, and contains the tabular reflective sections 14a-14c. The reflective sections 14a and 14b are combined by reflective section 14c, and the die-length direction cross section of the reflective sections 14a-14c is formed in abbreviation horseshoe-shaped. The die-length direction both ends of the reflective sections 14a and 14c are projected to the method of outside [ b / reflective section 14]. The supporters 14d and 14e which support a light guide plate 12 near the die-length direction both ends of reflective section 14a are formed, and 14g of notching which stops 16g of projections of the stick transparent material 16 is formed in the die-length direction one side edge (14d side of supporters) of reflective section 14b.

[0017] Supporters 14d and 14e intersect perpendicularly in the die-length direction of reflective section 14a, and are mutually prolonged in the same direction, and 90 degrees of parts are bent inside. For this reason, the die-length direction cross section of Supporters 14d and 14e is formed in the shape of abbreviation for L characters so that a light guide plate 12 may be wrapped in. Spacing of the bending part of Supporters 14d and 14e is equal to the breadth (distance from side-face 12e to 12f) of a light guide plate 12, and a light guide plate 12 is supported from the side-face 12e and 12f side by Supporters 14d and 14e.

[0018] In addition, the reflective sections 14a-14c and Supporters 14d and 14e are really fabricated. Moreover, when it looks at a reflector 14 from the upper part, 14d of supporters is formed in the location over the die-length direction one side edge of reflective section 14b, and supporter 14e is prepared in a way outside reflective section 14b.

[0019] With reference to drawing 7 (A), drawing 7 (B) and drawing 8 (A) - drawing 8 (D), a substrate 18 is set to mounting section 18a in which LED20a and zener diode 26 are mounted, mounting section 18b in which LED20b is mounted, and mounting section 18c in which a reflector 14 is mounted from 18d of electrode formation sections in which the electrode 22 which flows in LED20a and 20b is formed. The mounting sections 18a and 18b are combined with the both ends of mounting section 18c, and 18d of electrode formation sections is combined with mounting section 18a. In addition, as for a top face and an inferior surface of tongue, let the mounting sections 18a-18c and 18d of both electrode formation sections be flats.

[0020] LED 20a and 20b is mounted in the mounting sections 18a and 18b so that each luminescence sides E1 and E2 may intersect perpendicularly in the die-length direction of mounting section 18c and a right pair may be carried out mutually. When LED 20a and 20b is mounted, distance from the luminescence side E1 to the luminescence side E2 is set to  $60.3\pm0.3$ mm ( $\pm0.3$ mm is tolerance). Near the LED18a on mounting section 18c, through tube (0.6mm thru/or 0.7mm) 18e is formed for a diameter (tolerance is  $+0.1$ mm), and distance from the core of through tube 18e to the luminescence side E1 of LED20a is set to 1.6mm thru/or 1.7mm (tolerance is  $+0.1$ mm). On mounting section 18c except through tube 18e, two or more double-sided tapes 24 are stuck, and the back up plate 28a and 28b for reinforcing a substrate 18 is attached in the inferior surface of tongue of the mounting sections 18a and 18b. In addition, zener diode 26 is formed in order to protect LED 20a and 20b.

[0021] When producing the area-light equipment 10 shown in drawing 1 , a reflector 14 is first equipped with the stick transparent material 16. At this time, the stick transparent material 16 and a reflector 14 are relatively positioned by engaging with 14g of notching of a reflector 14 in 16g of projections of the stick transparent material 16.

[0022] Then, as shown in drawing 5 and drawing 6 , the substrate 18 with which LED 20a and 20b was mounted is prepared, and the reflector 14 by which the stick transparent material 16 was contained by this is mounted. It fits in with through tube 18e formed in mounting section 18c in 16g of projections which stuck reflective section 14b of a reflector 14 on mounting section 18c with the double-sided tape 24, and specifically projected it from 14g of notching.

[0023] At the time of the completion of mounting, the stick transparent material 16 is sandwiched by LED 20a and 20b as shown in drawing 9 R> 9 and drawing 12 , and 16g of projections projects slightly

on the inferior surface of tongue of a substrate 18 through through tube 18e, as shown in drawing 10 and drawing 11. Thus, as a result of positioning relatively a substrate 18 (that is, LED20a) and the stick transparent material 16 by 16g of projections, and through tube 18e, as shown in drawing 13, side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16 is close to the luminescence side E1 of LED20a.

[0024] A reflector 14 will be equipped with a light guide plate 12 if it finishes mounting a reflector 14 in a substrate 18. That is, 12g of prism sides is turned upward, and a light guide plate 12 is inserted from above [ of Supporters 14d and 14e ] so that 12d of side faces may be close with 16f of side faces of the stick transparent material 16 (16f becomes parallel mutually with 12d of side faces like). The luminescence side E1 of LED20a is located in about 1mm and the method of outside (electrode 22 side) rather than side-face 12e of a light guide plate 12 so that drawing 13 may show. Thus, the area-light equipment 10 shown in drawing 1 is obtained.

[0025] The stick transparent material 16 carries out incidence of the discharge light from the luminescence side E1 of LED20a which fixed to the substrate 18 from side-face 16c, and it carries out outgoing radiation from 16f of side faces so that the above explanation may show. Incidence of this outgoing radiation light is carried out from 12d of side faces of a light guide plate 12 -- having -- two or more lines -- pass in 12g of prism sides which consist of prism P -- outgoing radiation is carried out from inferior-surface-of-tongue 12b. Here, through tube 18e is formed near the LED20a of a substrate 18, and 16g of projections is formed near the side-face 16c of inferior-surface-of-tongue 16b of the stick transparent material 16. By inserting 16g of projections in through tube 18e, LED20a and the stick transparent material 16 are relatively positioned so that the luminescence side E1 of LED20a and side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16 may be mutually close.

[0026] As mentioned above, as shown in drawing 4 (A), there is \*\*0.3mm tolerance in the die length of stick transparent material 16e, and as shown in drawing 8 (C), there is \*\*0.3mm tolerance also in the distance between LED20a and 20b. Furthermore, even if tolerance is disregarded, a 0.2mm gap is between the distance between the die length of stick transparent material 16e, LED20a, and 20b so that drawing 4 (A) and drawing 8 (C) may show. Therefore, if 16g of projections like this example and through tube 18e are not prepared, a 0.8mm [ a maximum of ] clearance will be formed between the luminescence side E1 of LED20a, and side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16, and leakage light will arise from this clearance.

[0027] On the other hand, in this example, the tolerance produced about the distance from the core of projection 16 to side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16 and the diameter of projection 16 is 0.1mm, respectively (refer to drawing 4 (A)), and the tolerance produced from the core of through tube 18e about the distance to the luminescence side E1 of LED20a and the diameter of through tube 18e is also 0.1mm, respectively (refer to drawing 8 (C)). For this reason, the clearance produced between the luminescence side E1 of LED20a and side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16 is set to 0.3mm at the maximum. Therefore, compared with the time of not preparing 16g of projections, and through tube 18e, it becomes narrow about a clearance, and generating of leakage light can be reduced.

[0028] Moreover, since the luminescence side E1 of LED20a is located in the method of outside [ e / of a light guide plate 12 / side-face 12 ] (electrode 22 side), even if leakage light produces it from between the luminescence side E1 and side-face 16c of the stick transparent material 16, by the time leakage light reaches side-face 12e of a light guide plate 12, optical reinforcement will fall. For this reason, the bright line produced on the top face of a light guide plate 12 is not conspicuous.

[0029] In addition, instead of preparing a projection and a through tube, external force (external force of the direction which goes to LED) is applied to a stick transparent material by elastic member like a flat spring, and you may make it lose the clearance between the luminescence side of LED, and a stick transparent material by this, although LED and a stick transparent material are relatively positioned by a projection and the through tube and leakage light was reduced by this in this example.

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## DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the perspective view showing one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the perspective view showing a light guide plate.

[Drawing 3] (A) is the perspective view showing a stick transparent material, and (B) is the enlarged drawing showing a part of stick transparent material.

[Drawing 4] (A) is the bottom view showing a stick transparent material, (B) is the side elevation showing a stick transparent material, and (C) is the plan showing a stick transparent material.

[Drawing 5] (A) is the perspective view which looked at the reflector from top-face slant, and (B) is the perspective view which looked at the reflector from inferior-surface-of-tongue slant.

[Drawing 6] (B) is the side elevation showing a reflector, (A) is the bottom view showing a reflector, and (D) is [ (C) is the \*\*\*\* Fig. showing a reflector and ] another side elevation showing a reflector.

[Drawing 7] (A) is the perspective view showing a substrate, and (B) is the enlarged drawing showing some substrates.

[Drawing 8] (A) is an inferior surface of tongue which shows a substrate, (B) is the side elevation showing the substrate in which a substrate is shown, and (D) is [ (C) is the plan showing a substrate and ] the A-A sectional view of a substrate.

[Drawing 9] It is the important section sectional view showing the drawing 1 example.

[Drawing 10] They are other important section sectional views showing the drawing 1 example.

[Drawing 11] They are the other important section sectional views showing the drawing 1 example.

[Drawing 12] It is the illustration Fig. showing the physical relationship of a stick transparent material and LED.

[Drawing 13] It is another illustration Fig. showing the physical relationship of a stick transparent material and LED.

[Description of Notations]

10 -- Area-light equipment

12 -- Light guide plate

14 -- Reflector

16 -- Stick transparent material

18 -- Substrate

20a, 20 b--LED

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[Translation done.]

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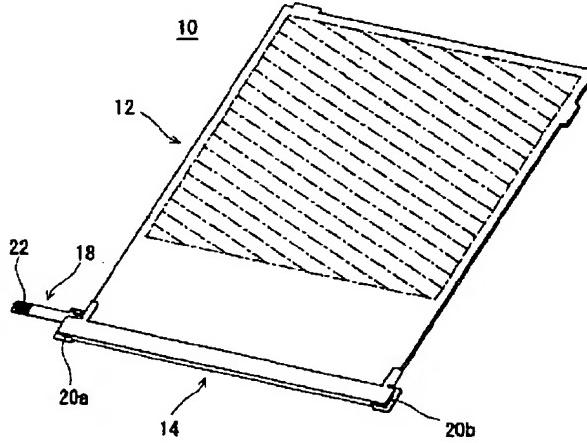
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(54)【発明の名称】面照明装置

(57)【要約】

【構成】スティック導光体16は、基板18に固定されたLED20aの発光面からの発射光をLED20a側の側面から入射し、導光体12側の側面から出射する。この出射光は導光板12の側面から入射され、上面から出射される。ここで、基板18には貫通孔18eが形成され、スティック導光体16の下面には突起16gが形成される。突起16gを貫通孔18eに嵌め込むことによって、LED20aの発光面とスティック導光体16の側面とが互いに密接するように、LED20aとスティック導光体16とが相対的に位置決めされる。

【効果】LEDの発光面とスティック導光体の側面との間から生じる漏れ光を低減することができる。



## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】基板に固着される点光源、前記点光源の発光面からの発射光を長さ方向端面から入射して長さ方向側面から出射する棒状導光体、および前記棒状導光体からの出射光を第1側面から入射して上面から出射する導光板を備える面照明装置において、前記基板の所定位置に嵌合凹部を形成し、前記棒状導光体の所定位置に嵌合凸部を形成し、前記嵌合凸部を前記嵌合凹部に嵌め込むことによって前記点光源と前記棒状導光体とを相対的に位置決めするようにしたことを特徴とする、面照明装置。

【請求項2】前記棒状導光体は前記導光板の前記第1側面とほぼ平行に配置され、前記導光板は前記点光源近傍で前記第1側面と直交する第2側面を有し、前記点光源の前記発光面は前記第2側面よりも外方に位置する、請求項1記載の面照明装置。

【請求項3】前記導光板は前記点光源近傍で前記第1側面と直交する第2側面を有し、前記第1側面および前記第2側面と交差する直線と平行な線状プリズムを前記導光板の上面に形成した、請求項1または2記載の面照明装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】この発明は、面照明装置に関し、特にたとえば、反射型液晶表示パネルに光を照射する、フロントライト方式の面照明装置に関する。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】従来のこの種の面照明装置の一例が、平成12年3月31日付けで出願公開された特開2000-89225号公報[G02F1/1335]に開示されている。この従来技術は、導光板の上面に多数形成された線状のプリズムの長さ方向と反射型液晶表示素子の画素パターンの垂直方向との間に所定角度をつけることで、プリズムと反射型液晶表示素子の画素パターンとの干渉によるモアレ縞の発生を防止しようとするものである。

【0003】また、別の面照明装置の一例が、平成12年1月14日付けで出願公開された特開2000-11723号公報[F21V8/00]に開示されている。この従来技術は、フロントライト方式ではないが、線状光源として使用されていた蛍光ランプの代わりに点光源と棒状導光体を用いることで、衝撃性の向上と低電圧駆動とを可能にしたものである。

【0004】このような2つの面照明装置を組み合わせれば、耐衝撃性および電圧駆動特性に優れ、モアレ縞が発生しないフロントライト方式の面照明装置が得られる。

## 【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかし、点光源および

棒状導光体を基板に実装したときの位置ずれによって点光源と棒状導光体との間に隙間が生じると、この隙間からの漏れ光が導光板に直接入射し、導光板の上面に輝線が生じてしまう。つまり、漏れ光が原因で、プリズムに直行する方向に輝線が現れる。

【0006】それゆえに、この発明の主たる目的は、点光源と棒状導光体との間から生じる漏れ光を低減することができる、面照明装置を提供することである。

【課題を解決するための手段】この発明は、基板に固着される点光源、点光源の発光面からの発射光を長さ方向端面から入射して長さ方向側面から出射する棒状導光体、および棒状導光体からの出射光を第1側面から入射して上面から出射する導光板を備える面照明装置において、基板の所定位置に嵌合凹部を形成し、棒状導光体の所定位置に嵌合凸部を形成し、嵌合凸部を嵌合凹部に嵌め込むことによって点光源と棒状導光体とを相対的に位置決めするようにしたことを特徴とする、面照明装置である。

## 【0008】

【作用】棒状導光体は、基板に固着された点光源の発光面からの発射光を長さ方向端面から入射し、長さ方向側面から出射する。棒状導光体からの出射光は導光板の第1側面から入射され、導光板の上面から出射される。ここで、基板の所定位置には嵌合凹部が形成され、棒状導光体の所定位置には嵌合凸部が形成される。嵌合凸部を嵌合凹部に嵌め込むことによって点光源と棒状導光体とが相対的に位置決めされる。

【0009】この発明のある局面では、棒状導光体は導光板の第1側面とほぼ平行に配置される。また、点光源の発光面は、点光源近傍において第1側面と直交する導光板の第2側面よりも外方に位置する。

【0010】この発明の他の局面では、第1側面および第2側面と交差する直線と平行な線状プリズムが、導光板の上面に形成される。

【0011】

【発明の効果】この発明によれば、嵌合凸部を嵌合凹部に嵌め込むことによって点光源と棒状導光体とを相対的に位置決めするようにしたため、点光源の発光面と棒状導光体の長さ方向端面とを密接させることができ、この結果、発光面と長さ方向端面との間から生じる漏れ光を低減することができる。

【0012】この発明の上述の目的、その他の目的、特徴および利点は、図面を参照して行う以下の実施例の詳細な説明から一層明らかとなろう。

## 【0013】

【実施例】図1に示すこの実施例の面照明装置10は、いわゆるフロントライト方式の照明装置であり、図2に示す導光板12、図3および図4に示す棒状導光体(スティック導光体)16、図5および図6に示すリフレク

タ14、ならびに図7および図8に示す基板18(LED20aおよび20bが実装済み)からなる。

【0014】図2を参照して、導光板12は透明性樹脂であるポリカーボネイト樹脂やアクリル樹脂を材料とし、上面12aおよび下面12bは矩形状に形成され、側面12eまたは12fから見た断面は、楔状または平行状に形成される。側面12cおよび12eがなす角度、側面12cおよび12fがなす角度、側面12fおよび12dがなす角度ならびに側面12dおよび12eがなす角度は、いずれもほぼ90°とされる。上面12aの中央やや側面12cよりには、複数の線状プリズムPからなるプリズム面12gが形成される。各々の線状プリズムPは側面12dに対して斜め方向に延び、線状プリズムの長さ方向は側面12eおよび12dと交差する直線Lと平行とされる。

【0015】図3(A)および図3(B)ならびに図4(A)～図4(C)を参照して、スティック導光体16もまた、透明性樹脂であるポリカーボネイト樹脂やアクリル樹脂を材料とする。上面16aおよび下面16bは互いに平行とされ、側面16c～16fは上面16aおよび下面16bに対して90°をなし、側面16cおよび16dは側面16eおよび16fに対して90°をなす。スティック導光体16の長さ(側面16cから側面16dまでの距離)は、導光板12の横幅とほぼ一致し、具体的には60.1±0.3mmとされる(±0.3mmは公差)。スティック導光体16の上面16aは全面にわたってフラットに形成され、下面16bは、側面16c近傍に形成された突起16gを除き、フラットに形成される。突起16gは円筒状に形成され、直径は0.5mmないし0.6mmとされる。つまり、直径の公差は-0.1mmとされる。また、側面16cから突起16gの中心までの距離は、1.5mmないし1.6mmとされる。つまり、この距離の公差もまた-0.1mmとされる。

【0016】図5(A)および図5(B)ならびに図6(A)～図6(C)を参照して、リフレクタ14は、ステンレス、真鍮、アルミなどの金属を材料とし、板状の反射部14a～14cを含む。反射部14aおよび14bは反射部14cによって結合され、反射部14a～14cの長さ方向断面は略コの字状に形成される。反射部14aおよび14cの長さ方向両端は反射部14bよりも外方に突出している。反射部14aの長さ方向両端近傍には導光板12を支持する支持部14dおよび14eが形成され、反射部14bの長さ方向一方端(支持部14d側)には、スティック導光体16の突起16gを係止する切欠14gが形成される。

【0017】支持部14dおよび14eは、反射部14aの長さ方向に直交して互いに同じ方向に延び、かつ一部が内側に90°曲げられている。このため、支持部14dおよび14eの長さ方向断面は、導光板12を包み

込むように略し字状に形成される。支持部14dおよび14eの曲げ部分の間隔は導光板12の横幅(側面12eから12fまでの距離)に等しく、導光板12は、支持部14dおよび14eによって側面12eおよび12f側から支持される。

【0018】なお、反射部14a～14cならびに支持部14dおよび14eは一体成形される。また、リフレクタ14を上方から眺めたとき、支持部14dは反射部14bの長さ方向一方端を跨ぐ位置に設けられ、支持部14eは反射部14bの外方に設けられる。

【0019】図7(A)および図7(B)ならびに図8(A)～図8(D)を参照して、基板18は、LED20aおよびツェナーダイオード26が実装される実装部18aと、LED20bが実装される実装部18bと、リフレクタ14が実装される実装部18cと、LED20aおよび20bに導通する電極22が形成される電極形成部18dとからなる。実装部18aおよび18bは実装部18cの両端に結合され、電極形成部18dは実装部18aに結合される。なお、実装部18a～18cおよび電極形成部18dのいずれも、上面および下面是フラットとされる。

【0020】LED20aおよび20bは、各々の発光面E1およびE2が実装部18cの長さ方向に直交しつつ互いに正対するように、実装部18aおよび18bに実装される。LED20aおよび20bが実装されたとき、発光面E1から発光面E2までの距離は、60.3±0.3mmとされる(±0.3mmは公差)。実装部18c上のLED18a近傍には、直径が0.6mmないし0.7mmの貫通孔18eが形成され(公差は+0.1mm)、貫通孔18eの中心からLED20aの発光面E1までの距離は1.6mmないし1.7mmとされる(公差は+0.1mm)。貫通孔18eを除く実装部18c上には、複数の両面テープ24が貼着され、実装部18aおよび18bの下面には、基板18を補強するための補強板28aおよび28bが取り付けられる。なお、ツェナーダイオード26は、LED20aおよび20bを保護するために設けられる。

【0021】図1に示す面照明装置10を作製するときは、まずスティック導光体16をリフレクタ14に装着する。このとき、スティック導光体16の突起16gをリフレクタ14の切欠14gに係合することで、スティック導光体16とリフレクタ14とを相対的に位置決めする。

【0022】続いて、図5および図6に示すようにLED20aおよび20bが実装された基板18を用意し、これにスティック導光体16が収納されたリフレクタ14を実装する。具体的には、リフレクタ14の反射部14bを両面テープ24によって実装部18cに貼り付け、切欠14gから突出した突起16gを実装部18cに形成された貫通孔18eと嵌合する。

【0023】実装完了時、スティック導光体16は、図9および図12に示すようにLED20aおよび20bによって挟まれ、突起16gは、図10および図11に示すように貫通孔18eを通じて基板18の下面にわずかに突出する。このように、突起16gと貫通孔18eとによって基板18(つまりLED20a)とスティック導光体16とを相対的に位置決めした結果、図13に示すように、スティック導光体16の側面16cはLED20aの発光面E1に密接する。

【0024】リフレクタ14を基板18に実装し終えると、導光板12をリフレクタ14に装着する。つまり、プリズム面12gを上向きにして、側面12dがスティック導光体16の側面16fと密接するように(側面12dと16fとが互いに平行となるように)、導光板12を支持部14dおよび14eの上方向から差し込む。図13から分かるように、LED20aの発光面E1は、導光板12の側面12eよりも1mm程度、外方(電極22側)に位置する。このようにして、図1に示す面照明装置10が得られる。

【0025】以上の説明から分かるように、スティック導光体16は、基板18に固着されたLED20aの発光面E1からの発射光を側面16cから入射し、側面16fから出射する。この出射光は導光板12の側面12dから入射され、複数の線状プリズムPからなるプリズム面12gを経て下面12bから出射される。ここで、基板18のLED20a近傍には貫通孔18eが形成され、スティック導光体16の下面16bの側面16c近傍には突起16gが形成される。突起16gを貫通孔18eに嵌め込むことによって、LED20aの発光面E1とスティック導光体16の側面16cとが互いに密接するように、LED20aとスティック導光体16とが相対的に位置決めされる。

【0026】上述のように、スティック導光体16eの長さには、図4(A)に示すように±0.3mmの公差があり、LED20aおよび20b間の距離にも、図8(C)に示すように±0.3mmの公差がある。さらに、公差を無視したとしても、スティック導光体16eの長さとLED20aおよび20b間の距離との間に、図4(A)および図8(C)から分かるように、0.2mmのずれがある。したがって、この実施例のような突起16gおよび貫通孔18eを設けなければ、LED20aの発光面E1とスティック導光体16の側面16cとの間に最大0.8mmの隙間が形成され、この隙間から漏れ光が生じてしまう。

【0027】これに対して、この実施例では、突起16の中心からスティック導光体16の側面16cまでの距離ならびに突起16の直径について生じる公差はそれぞれ0.1mmであり(図4(A)参照)、貫通孔18eの中心からLED20aの発光面E1までの距離ならびに貫通孔18eの直径について生じる公差もそれぞれ

0.1mmである(図8(C)参照)。このため、LED20aの発光面E1とスティック導光体16の側面16cとの間に生じる隙間は最大で0.3mmとなる。したがって、突起16gおよび貫通孔18eを設けなかったときに比べて隙間を狭くなり、漏れ光の発生を低減できる。

【0028】また、LED20aの発光面E1は、導光板12の側面12eよりも外方(電極22側)に位置するため、発光面E1とスティック導光体16の側面16cとの間から漏れ光が生じたとしても、漏れ光が導光板12の側面12eに到達するまでに光強度が低下する。このため、導光板12の上面に生じる輝線が目立つことはない。

【0029】なお、この実施例では、突起および貫通孔によってLEDとスティック導光体とを相対的に位置決めし、これによって漏れ光を低減するようしたが、突起および貫通孔を設ける代わりに、板バネのような弾性部材によってスティック導光体に外力(LEDに向かう方向の外力)を加え、これによってLEDの発光面とスティック導光体との隙間をなくすようにしてもよい。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】この発明の一実施例を示す斜視図である。

【図2】導光板を示す斜視図である。

【図3】(A)はスティック導光体を示す斜視図であり、(B)はスティック導光体の一部を示す拡大図である。

【図4】(A)はスティック導光体を示す下面図であり、(B)はスティック導光体を示す側面図であり、(C)はスティック導光体を示す上面図である。

【図5】(A)はリフレクタを上面斜め方向から見た斜視図であり、(B)はリフレクタを下面斜め方向から見た斜視図である。

【図6】(A)はリフレクタを示す下面図であり、(B)はリフレクタを示す側面図であり、(C)はリフレクタを示す状面図であり、(D)はリフレクタを示す別の側面図である。

【図7】(A)は基板を示す斜視図であり、(B)は基板の一部を示す拡大図である。

【図8】(A)は基板を示す下面であり、(B)は基板を示す基板を示す側面図であり、(C)は基板を示す上面図であり、(D)は基板のA-A断面図である。

【図9】図1実施例を示す要部断面図である。

【図10】図1実施例を示す他の要部断面図である。

【図11】図1実施例を示すその他の要部断面図である。

【図12】スティック導光体とLEDとの位置関係を示す図解図である。

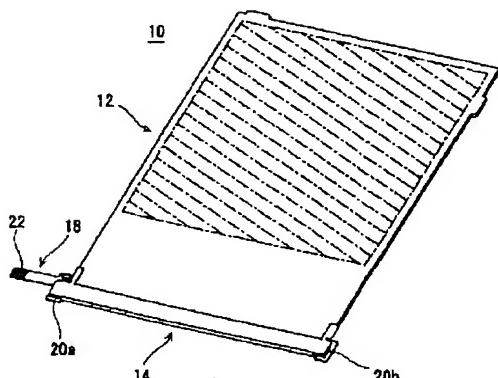
【図13】スティック導光体とLEDとの位置関係を示す別の図解図である。

【符号の説明】

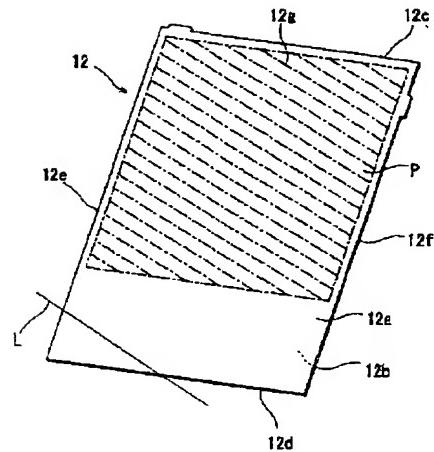
10…面照明装置  
12…導光板  
14…リフレクタ

\* 16…スティック導光体  
18…基板  
\* 20a, 20b…LED

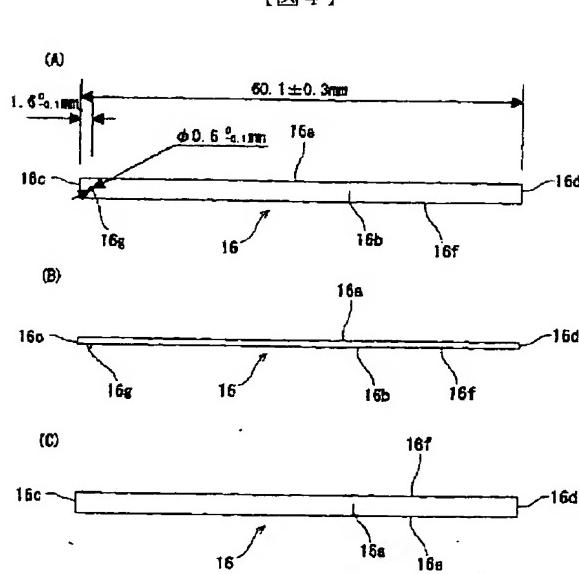
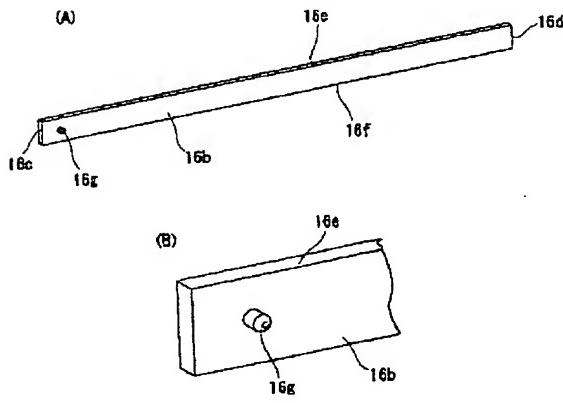
【図1】



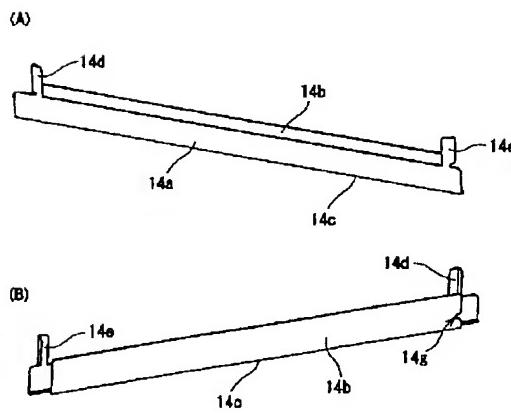
【図2】



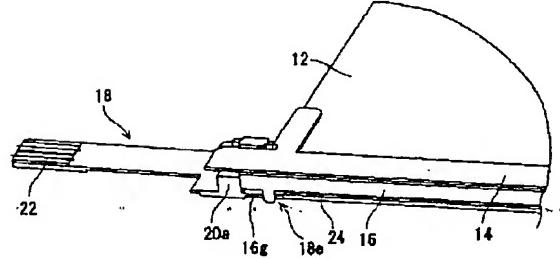
【図3】



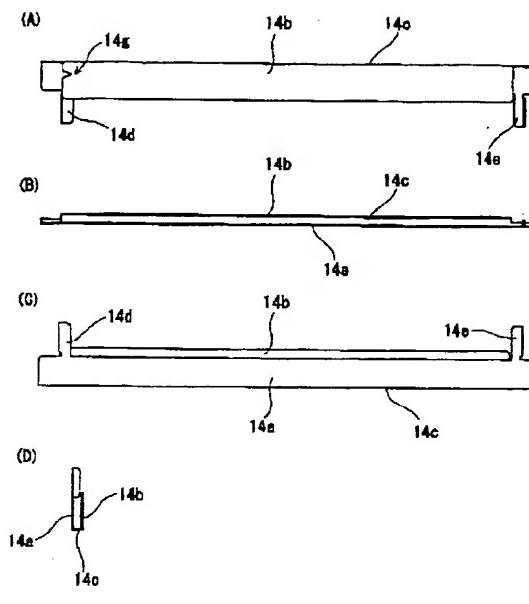
【図5】



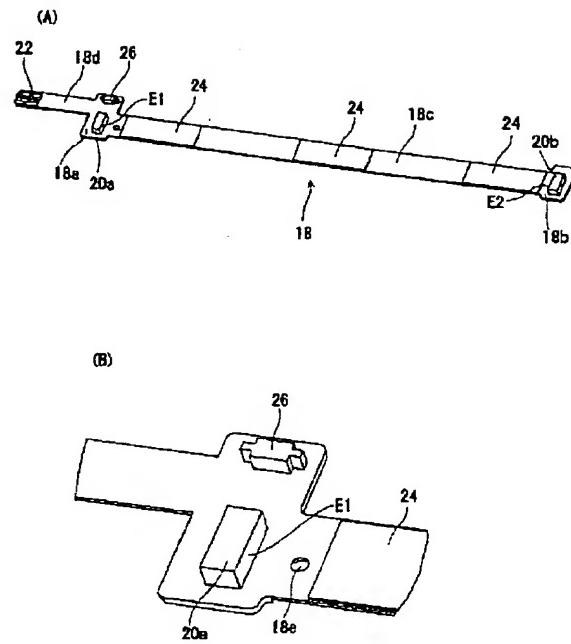
【図10】



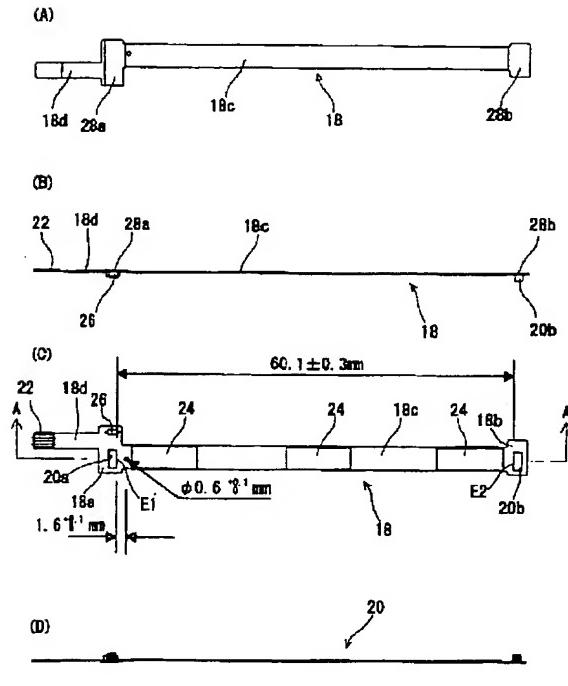
【図6】



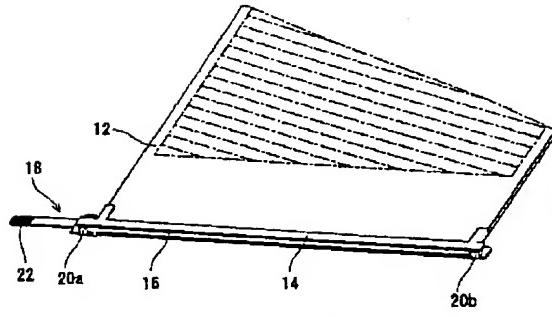
【図7】



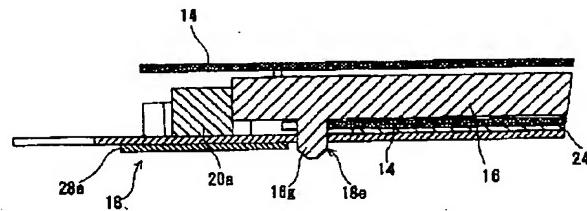
【図8】



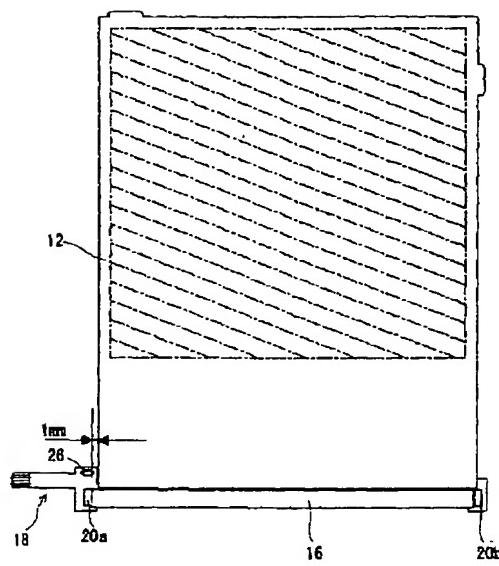
【図9】



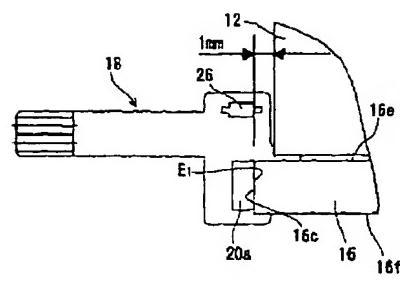
【図11】



[図12]



[図13]



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